

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 151145Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8151

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06435

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GW, FR, UK, US

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF BERLIN PROBLEMS AT QUADRI-
PARTITE AMBASSADORIAL LUNCH

1. APART FROM THE SUBJECT OF AN AIR FARE INCREASE FOR ALLIED CARRIERS TO WEST BERLIN (REPORTED SEPARATELY), THE QUADRIPARTITE AMBASSADORIAL LUNCH ON APRIL 14 WITH STATE SECRETARY HERMES OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE OSLO QUADRIPARTITE MEETINGS, THE NEED FOR BETTER CONSULTATION ON INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS, AND THE FEDERAL PRESENCE IN BERLIN.

2. STATE SECRETARY HERMES SAID HIS GOVERNMENT, ON THE BASIS OF RECENT EXPERIENCE, COULD ONLY COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS A REAL HARDENING OF THE SOVIET POSITION ON BERLIN. NOT ONLY WAS THE FRG UNABLE TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THE THREE OUTSTANDING AGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE LONG BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE SOVIETS, NAMELY, LEGAL ASSISTANCE, SCIENCE AND
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TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES, BUT THE SOVIETS NOW

SEEMED TO BE CHALLENGING AS ILLEGAL ALL FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN, EVEN THOSE WHICH HAD CLEARLY BEEN IN EXISTENCE BEFORE THE QUADRI-PARTITE AGREEMENT. THE FRG CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT THE NATO COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED IN OSLO CONTAIN SPECIFIC LANGUAGE ON FRG REPRESENTATION ABROAD OF WEST BERLIN ALONG THE LINES ALREADY SUGGESTED IN THE BONN GROUP (BONN 6101).

3. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND NOTED THAT THE GERMAN REQUEST MADE BY AMBASSADOR VON STADEN TO ASST. SEC. HARTMAN THAT THE BONN GROUP STUDY PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH FRG REPRESENTATION OF BERLIN INTERESTS ABROAD DEALT WITH ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION. THE SOVIET CHALLENGE TO FEDERAL ACTIVITY IN WEST BERLIN ITSELF, AS NOTED BY HERMES, COULD ALSO CREATE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES.

4. FRENCH AMBASSADOR WORMSER REPORTED THAT, DURING THEIR RECENT BILATERAL DISCUSSION ON THE MARGIN OF THE LUXEMBOURG SUMMIT, PRESIDENT GISCARD HAD STRESSED TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT THE NEED FOR BETTER FRG CO-ORDINATION WITH THE THREE ALLIES ON DEVELOPMENTS IN INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS. THE EXPERIENCE WITH THE DEC. 19 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FRG AND GDR HAD CREATED CERTAIN ANXIETIES. THE BEST WAY TO DEFEND WEST BERLIN, GISCARD CONTINUED, WAS TO STICK TO THE QUADRI-PARTITE AGREEMENT IN EVERY RESPECT. THE CHANCELLOR SAID HE AGREED FULLY WITH WHAT GISCARD HAD SAID, BUT ADMITTED THAT SOMETIMES SOME OF HIS PEOPLE WENT TOO FAR AND DID NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF WHAT IS CONTAINED IN SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS. WORMSER ADDED THAT, IN VIEW OF THIS UNDERSTANDING IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN GISCARD AND SCHMIDT, HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE NO REPETITION OF THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06435

KIND OF LAST-MINUTE PRESSURE UNDER WHICH THE ALLIES
WERE PLACED LAST DECEMBER.

5. WORMSER WENT ON TO QUERY HERMES AS TO THE FRG
EXPLANATION FOR THE LAST-MINUTE GDR CHANGE OF POSITION
IN THE RECENT REICHBAHN SITUATION. HE COULD ONLY
ASSUME IN VIEW OF GERMAN REQUESTS FOR DELAYS IN
THE ISSUANCE OF THE ALLIED BKO THAT GAUS WAS IN TOUCH
WITH GDR OFFICIALS AT A HIGH LEVEL. IT WAS NOT UN-
IMPORTANT TO KNOW PRECISELY WHY THE GDR HAD MADE ITS
RETREAT. HERMES SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE SPECIFIC
ANSWER IN TERMS OF THE MENTAL PROCESSES OF THE GDR
LEADERSHIP, BUT THE FRG ASSUMED THAT THE CRUCIAL FAC-
TOR WAS THAT, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE GDR DID NOT
WANT TO JEOPARDIZE THE ENTIRE COMPLEX OF AGREEMENTS
REACHED IN DECEMBER.

6. NOTING THAT THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR IN GERMANY,
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BRITISH AMBASSADOR WRIGHT CITED VARIOUS CURRENT RUMORS
AND REPORTS OF FEDERAL AGENCIES OR OTHER GOVERNMENT
SUBSIDIZED ACTIVITIES ALLEGEDLY SCHEDULED TO BE SET
UP IN WEST BERLIN. HE SAID THAT, NOT ONLY WAS ADE-
QUATE ADVANCE CONSULTATION REQUIRED IN ALL SUCH
ACTUAL CASES, BUT ALSO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MODERATION
IN STATEMENTS, AS DIFFICULT AS THIS MIGHT BE IN AN
ELECTION YEAR. HE ASKED PRECISELY WHAT THE SITUATION
WAS WITH REGARD TO THE GERMAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION
CONFLICTING REPORTS CONCERNING WHICH HAD APPEARED IN
THE PRESS. HERMES SAID THAT PRESS REPORTS WERE FAR
IN ADVANCE OF THE REALITY, AND THE FEDERAL PRESS

SPOKESMAN BOELLING HAD TRIED TO APPLY THE BRAKES TO
SUCH SPECULATION IN HIS STATEMENT OF APRIL 13. THERE
WERE STILL MANY PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BEFORE ANY
DECISION COULD BE TAKEN ON THE LOCATION OF THE
FOUNDATION.
HILLENBRAND

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